

Central Chronicle

Founder: Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari
Inspiration: Late Shri Prafulla Kumar Maheshwari

EDITORIAL

Climate Change

Climate change was once again a central focus of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. This time, the debate wasn't limited to carbon emissions, but also delved into issues of “climate justice” and the “priorities of the global South.” This marked a turning point where India not only raised its voice but also played a leading role in advocating for the common interests of developing countries. The world recognizes that the climate crisis is most deeply impacting those countries whose emissions have historically been minimal. Statistics show that Africa contributes only 4 percent of global carbon emissions since the Industrial Revolution, and India about 3.5 percent, while developed countries—especially the United States and Europe—together have emitted more than 50 percent of greenhouse gases. Despite this, developing countries are facing the most severe climate disasters. Recent rains and floods have caused billions of dollars in damage to Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other African countries. India is no exception—according to a CSE report, climate-induced disasters in India in 2022 killed an average of 35 people every day and caused economic losses of approximately \$500 million.

In this context, India reiterated at the United Nations that climate action is incomplete without climate justice. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had already presented the “Panchamrut” agenda at Glasgow (COP 26), which included a net-zero target by 2070, 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030, and a pledge to meet 50 percent of total energy needs from renewable sources. The recently released India Green Energy Progress Report shows that the country has already reached 180 gigawatts of renewable energy production, the second-largest expansion in the world after China.

But the question isn't just about targets, it's also about finance. Developing countries argue for “common but differentiated responsibility,” meaning that all countries share responsibility based on their

individual capacities and historical burdens. In 2009, developed countries promised to provide \$100 billion annually for climate finance, but by 2023, only \$80 billion had been raised. India raised this question in the General Assembly—will poor countries receive relief only through rhetoric or actual financial assistance?

India's diplomacy here is walking a double path. On the one hand, it is providing a platform to the global South through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Green Development Agreement at the G20, while on the other, it is pressuring developed countries to ensure technology transfer and financial support. This is why India's voice is being taken seriously, from the African Union to Latin American countries. The truth is that climate change today is not just an environmental issue, but a question of development, economics, and global justice. If developed countries continue to backtrack on their commitments, discontent will grow among countries in the South, jeopardizing the entire process of climate cooperation. This is an opportunity for India to expand its “Voice of the Global South” initiative and move towards building a robust green funding mechanism.

Ultimately, the fight against climate change will not be won simply by statistics or conferences. Winning it requires justice for the world's most vulnerable and most affected communities. India is emerging as a natural leader of the Global South in this direction. This leadership will shape its true identity in the 21st century.

Since the 1800s, the main driver of climate change has been human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels. Due to climate change, Earth's average temperature is increasing. Polar ice and glaciers are melting at an accelerated rate. The melting of ice and thermal expansion of water contribute to rising sea levels. Weather patterns are changing, leading to more extreme events. Climate change is a significant, human-caused phenomenon with broad impacts on the planet's systems and its inhabitants.

The Sky's the Limit: Honoring the Marvels of Skyscraper Engineering

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit
Every year 3rd September is celebrated as National Skyscrapers Day on the birth anniversary of Louis H. Sullivan, often called the 'father of modern skyscrapers'. The term 'skyscraper' originated in the United States in the late 1880s. Historically this was the time when there was a building boom in New York and Chicago.

The world we live in was transformed around the turn of the 20th century. Architect Louis Sullivan, through intuition and innovation, and his prominence in his field, has become the keystone in shaping modern architecture.

Sullivan is known as the 'father of modern skyscrapers' as he was the chief architect behind famous buildings such as the Wainwright Building, the Bayard-Condit Building, the Krause Music Store and more.

Skyscrapers are very tall buildings that define a city's skyline. A skyscraper is a tall habitable building with multiple floors.

These high rise buildings are around 100 metres or 150 metres in height. As per guinnessworldrecords, the world's first sky-

scraper came up in Chicago in 1885. It's a 10-storey building, with its peak at 138 feet. It was called the

the advancements we have made as a culture. Humans have erected buildings to show their social and

Today technology allows us to construct structures that we would never have been able to make in the past. Some of the creations are impressive based on what they accomplish but others are masterpieces in themselves.

'Home Insurance Building'. Most people think that building skyscrapers is a must, while others think that building them is worthless. "Skyscrapers are, literally, prominent features of many cities. These days, buildings that have at least 40 or more floors are designated as skyscrapers.

Today technology allows us to construct structures that we would never have been able to make in the past. Some of the creations are impressive based on what they accomplish but others are masterpieces in themselves.

Today, Man's capability to build such tall buildings, as the skyscrapers we are familiar with covering our cities today, is a major expression of

political influence since the dawn of time, however skyscrapers enhanced these capabilities through their vertical style and dominance of height.

Technically, the first "skyscrapers" were constructed with the Byzantines and Egyptians as ziggurats or pyramids. These were built to show political power, and the sacredness of monuments through height and limited accessibility.

The world's first skyscraper came up in Chicago in 1885. The 10-storey building, with its peak at 138 feet, was called the 'Home Insurance Building'. The architect of the world's first skyscraper was Major William LeBaron Jenney.

Records say, the skyscraper in

Chicago did not last long and it was demolished in 1931, the same year when the Empire State Building in New York came up.

There is no doubt that the tall buildings have captured the imagination", prosperity, and hard work of people during the course of history. Skyscrapers represent great power, hard work, and control in the United States, the skyscraper is the greatest symbol of American history. Skyscrapers are engineered to be built vertically in order to save space in big cities where real estate is expensive.

However, some of the first skyscrapers, like Jenney's model, utilized a larger and wider base than modern skyscrapers, as the technology was in its first use on the market.

There is no doubt that the future of skyscrapers is in the hands of environmental and architectural engineers that can develop sustainable and cost-effective buildings for commercial and residential use. Further, the use of computer climate control system has made the building a more comfortable environment for everyone.

80th UNGA must act to stop regressive pushbacks against health and gender

SHOBHA SHUKLA – CNS
By committing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 2015), all government leaders had promised health and wellbeing (SDG-3) and gender equality (SDG-5) by 2030 “where no one is left behind.” Two-third along the way in 2025, writing on the wall is clear: promises are not being kept.

“Together, these 2 SDG goals (SDG-3 and SDG-5) are at the heart of the 2030 SDGs agenda. Without them, there can be no human development, no sustainable peace, and no economic transformation, said Benedicta Oyedayo Oyewole, Community Engagement and Partnership Lead, InternationalPlanned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Africa.

Rising anti-rights and anti-gender pushbacks along with conflicts, wars, invasions and genocides, have not only arrested the progress made on gender and health but also threatening to reverse (and reversing) some of the fragile gains made on health and gender.

We are not only majorly off track on health and gender but also governments have hardly prioritised them when it comes to political will,

investment or integrated whole-of-government action.

A for accountability is missing in SDGs

“We cannot achieve SDG-3 and SDG-5 goals and targets without the commitment from the governments as governments have a responsibility and duty to protect human rights of women and gender diverse peoples in all aspects. We must have accountability when it comes to these promises enshrined in SDGs and progress made or lack of it,” said Matcha Phorn-In, a noted feminist and development justice leader and Founder Executive Director of Sangsan Anakot Yaowachon, Thailand.

“In many countries we are faced with armed conflicts (or invasions or genocide). People in these conflict areas are forced for internal and external displacements. Many countries do not acknowledge indigenous rights. So, indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources also get severely restricted. Rather indigenous peoples are impacted by so-called 'business' activities that violate human rights and our environment. We cannot talk about right to health without talking about ending wars, conflicts, invasions and

genocides,” stressed Matcha Phorn-In. “We also need to acknowledge the indigenous right to land and right to natural resources, because by not doing so, we are ignoring the root cause of hunger, poverty, and lack of education especially for girls and gender diverse peoples.”

“I would like to celebrate a major progress in Thailand for which we have been fighting for over 20 years: Marriage Equality Act. Thailand became the first country in Southeast Asia to recognise marriage equality. We would fully celebrate when all countries in southeast Asian region stop criminalising LGBTQIA+ peoples,” she added.

Despite progress in Africa on health and gender, major challenges remain

“Since 2015, the African region has taken important steps to advance progress on health and gender. But here is the reality. The progress is really slow. We must confront the reality: we are not on track,” said Benedicta Oyedayo Oyewole of IPPF Africa.

“African countries still accounts for 70% of global maternal deaths worldwide. In countries such as Nigeria, South Sudan, Chad, women continue to die from preventable

causes simply because essential obstetric services are out of reach. In parts of the region, 1-in-3 women experienced intimate partner violence and conflicts have worsened this crisis in countries such as South Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Somalia. Reports of conflict-related sexual violence have increased. Child marriages remain widespread. Nearly 4 out of 10 girls in West and Central African countries are married before 18 and this robs them of education, health and ultimately their future. On universal health coverage (UHC), the African regional coverage index remain far below global averages and millions are pushed into poverty every year because of out-of-pocket health spending,” said Benedicta.

“COVID-19 and recent conflicts have reversed some gains.

But let us be clear, the crisis is not only about shocks. It is also about underfunded systems, weak accountability, and political choices that failed to prioritise women's health and rights. And a good example of that is in the case of the Gambia which last year moved to repeal the Act that criminalised female genital mutilation in the country,” added Benedicta.

Shakti Spandan

10 day event during Navratri at Museums across MP



A unique initiative in India to celebrate Shakti of the historical past with unique archaeological sculptures and its manifestation in present and powerful India was inaugurated across museums in Madhya Pradesh recently. These included the State Museum - Bhopal, Central Museum – Indore, Rani Durgavati Museum Jabalpur and Triveni Museum Ujjain. This event is being held during the holy festival of Navratri from the 20th to the 30th of September 2025. Navratri, also known as Shardiya Navratri, is one of the most auspicious Hindu festivals, celebrated with devotion across India. The nine days symbolize the battle between Goddess Durga and the demon Mahishasura, culminating in the victory of good over evil on the tenth day, Vijayadashami.

The Department of Archaeology, Archives and Museums of Madhya Pradesh has taken this event initiative. The inauguration day's activities included lighting of the holy lamp, followed by an especially curated guided walk through exhibition with lighted panels highlighting the sculptures in the four museums as well as esteemed women personalities and of modern day weapons in India named after Shakti.

This followed a painting competition by school children on how they interpreted the theme

of Shakti Spandan. This painting competition received many hundred entries with extremely creative interpretations of the theme. The outstanding entries received prizes.

Relating history to festivals and events

This concept is the brainchild of the Commissioner of the Department of Archaeology, Archives and Museums Urmila Shukla. She said, “Engaging with our stakeholders is a key priority of the Department. Relating history which we preserve and conserve to festivals and events, makes it easier for our stakeholders to connect and value the past. We have many events and activities planned ahead with such unique and positive concepts.”

The Joint Director Dr. Manisha Sharma at her inaugural address at the State Museum said “From ancient India to modern times if we truly want to understand the powerful role of Shakti in our society, then museums are the best references. In our sanatana tradition, women have always been seen with dignity, beauty, prosperity and wisdom. The aim of this exhibition is to connect with the younger generation. By celebrating the power of the feminine divine, we want to communicate that our artifacts and sculptures are not silent.”

Science Fact

Giant ‘water batteries’ could make green power reliable

The machines that turn Tennessee's Raccoon Mountain into one of the world's largest energy storage devices—in effect, a battery that can power a medium-size city—are hidden in a cathedral-size cavern deep inside the mountain. But what enables the mountain to store all that energy is plain in an aerial photo. The summit plateau is occupied by a large lake that hangs high above the Tennessee River, so close it looks like it might fall in.



Almost half a century ago, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the region's federally owned electric utility, built the lake and blasted out the cavern as well as a 329-meter-tall shaft that links the two. “It was quite an effort to drill down into this mountain, because of the amount of rock that's here,” senior manager Holli Hess says dryly. The cavern holds a candy-colored powerhouse, filled with cherry-red electrical ducts and vents and beams in a pale grape. Four giant cylinders, painted bright green and yellow, are the key machines: Each one houses a turbine that becomes a pump when it spins the other way, and a generator that is also an electric motor.

At night, when demand for electricity is low but TVA's nuclear reactors are still humming, TVA banks the excess, storing it as gravitational potential energy in the summit lake. The pumps draw water from the Tennessee and shoot it straight up the 10-meter-wide shaft at a rate that would fill an Olympic pool in less than 6 seconds.

Spiritual

Why Lord Ganesha Chose A Mouse As His Vahan? Significance Explained!

In Hindu mythology, the deities are often depicted with unique animals or Vahanas that symbolise their powers. Among them, Lord Ganesha, who is said to be the remover of obstacles, is known for riding a mouse. This has intrigued many devotees for centuries now. But why did Lord Ganesha choose a mouse as his vehicle? The answer lies in a story that resonates, which goes back to the ancient era.

How is musician Krauncha linked with the story?

The story of the mouse begins with a celestial musician named Krauncha. Renowned for his musical abilities, Krauncha accidentally stepped on the foot of the sage Vamadeva during a royal assembly. Enraged by the insult, the Vamadeva cursed the musician and transformed him into a giant mouse. His transformation was interestingly not just physical but spiritual too. The mouse grew so large that it caused massive destruction to everything in its path. When the mouse destroyed the sage Parashar's ashram, who was staying at Lord Ganesha's place at the moment, the deity decided to take action. Lord Ganesha was annoyed and wanted to meet the giant mouse who had caused the damage and teach him a lesson. With the help of 'paasa' (rope), which was one of his weapons, Lord Ganesha pulled the mouse, and it fell on Krauncha's neck and dragged him to Ganesha's feet.

Krauncha asked Lord Ganesha to forgive him. The deity offered him a condition to surrender to him and serve as his mount for the rest of his life. The mouse was touched by his compassion and accepted the offer. Since then, Lord Ganesha's very own vehicle is known as Mooshika in Sanskrit.



Letter to the Editor

Harold Dicky Bird - an umpiring legend

Sir
In Harold 'Dickie' Birds demise the cricketing world and sports in general has lost one of the most legendary and beloved umpires. Though his name is Harold Bird, he was affectionately known as 'Dickie' from his school days, a nickname that stayed with him throughout .

The Yorkshire county cricket club with which he was closely associated has rightly stated that Bird has left behind a legacy of sportsmanship, personality and joy in the cricketing world that will be remembered for generations.

Bird began as a cricketer and later switched onto umpiring and he became an umpire par excellence.

He officiated in 66 Test matches and 69 One Day Internationals, including umpiring in three World Cup finals.

He was one of the two umpires on the field during India's historic World Cup victory at Lord's in 1983 and it was in his farewell test match in 1996 that the cricket world saw the debut of two Indian legends - Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid .

He was like a loveable and highly respected school master on the field. Known for his deep knowledge, fairness, authority, humanity, humour , decisiveness and impartiality Bird truly embodied the spirit and soul of cricket and his passing marks the end of an era .

He will be deeply missed and remembered as one of the most respected figures in cricketing history.

M Pradyu

Tech

Elon Musk denies funding talks for his AI firm xAI amid speculation

Entrepreneur Elon Musk clarified on Friday that his artificial intelligence venture, xAI, is not engaged in discussions with investors to secure funding, countering earlier reports suggesting otherwise.

In a statement shared on the platform X, Musk refuted claims of capital-raising activities, stating, "xAI is not raising capital and I have had no conversations with anyone in this regard." The clarification comes in response to a report by the Financial Times which indicated that xAI was exploring fundraising opportunities with a target of up to \$6 billion, valuing the startup at \$20 billion. According to sources cited in the FT report, xAI has been in discussions with family offices in Hong Kong and is eyeing investments from sovereign wealth funds in the Middle East.

The AI landscape has witnessed escalating competition, with investors increasingly backing startups poised to leverage advancements in artificial intelligence, a sector that has gripped the attention of Silicon Valley in recent times. This is not the first time Musk has found himself addressing speculation surrounding xAI's financial endeavours. Just last week, he refuted claims that the company had secured \$500 million in commitments from investors towards a \$1 billion funding target. Musk's commitment to advancing AI safety is well-documented. While he co-founded OpenAI in 2015, he stepped down from its board in 2018. Last year, xAI made headlines with the launch of "Grok," a chatbot platform positioned as a competitor to OpenAI's ChatGPT.



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